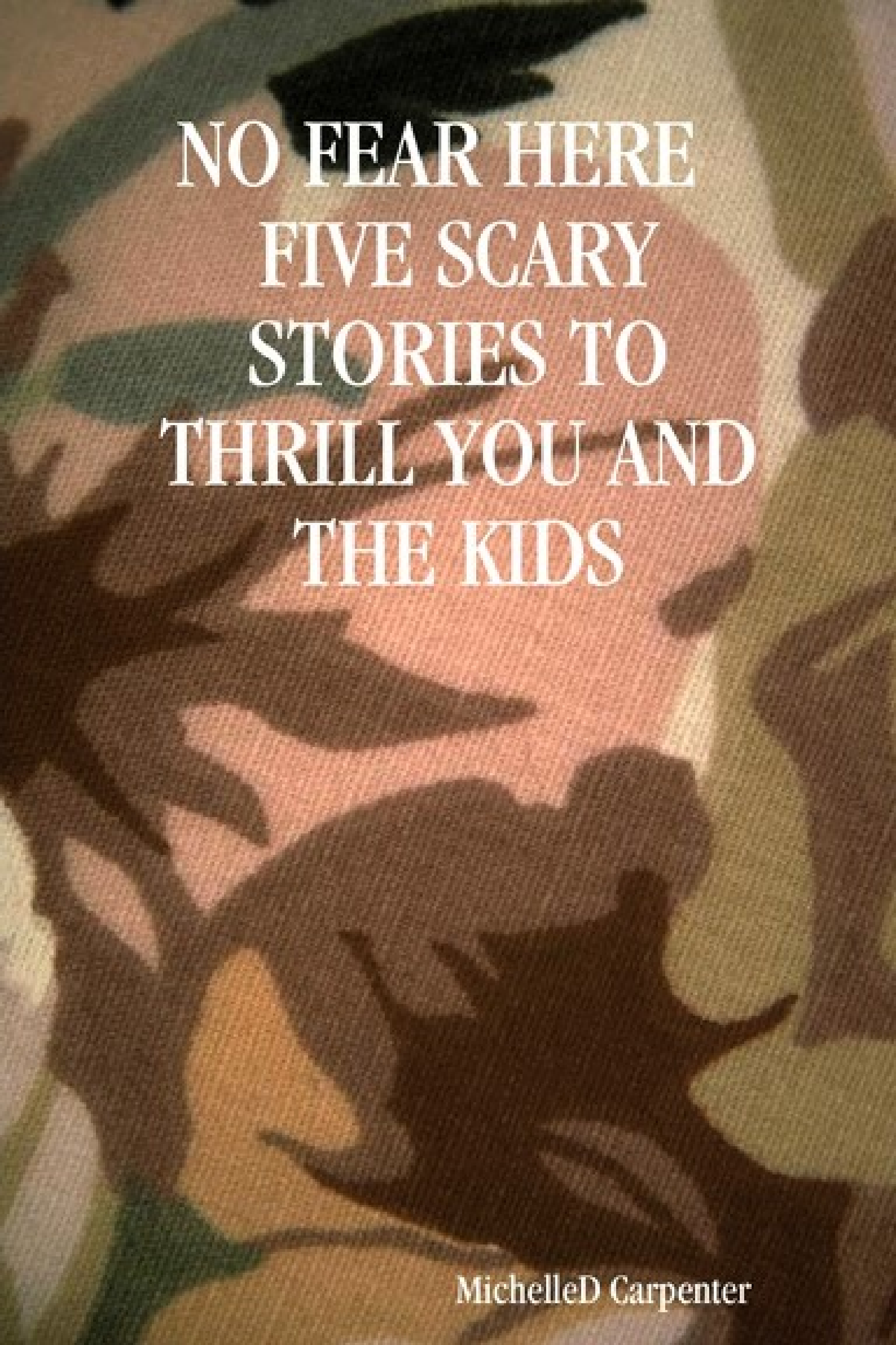
NO FEAR HERE
FIVE SCARY STORIES TO THRILL YOU AND THE KIDS
MichelleD Carpenter

DEDICATION

Thanks to my family and friends for their support and patience. A special thanks to Bill Meloni for his help and encouragement with my work. Most importantly thanks to my readers without whom my books would be meaningless.

PLEASE CHECK OUT MY WEBSITES AT

www.michellecarpentersurvivoroflife.com
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NO FEAR HERE

FIVE SCARY STORIES TO THRILL AND INSPIRE YOU

(EVERY STORY HAS A MORAL TO APPLY TO LIFE)

1...WHEN THE BABY CRIES Alexa knows something is wrong when the new babysitter arrives. When mom goes into labor the truth comes out. This is a shocker that will chill you.

2...THE GOHST OF JENNY Jenny has been dead for over four years, but she can not rest

until she solves her murder and saves her little brother from being the next victim. You think you know who the killer is.....Think again.

3...THE RING When her wedding ring is stolen the wealthy Mrs. Jenna Banks thinks she will never see it again. Through a strange twist of fate, the thief enters a journey he never expected. This journey will lead him directly back to Jenna.

4...THE COLD DARK WOODS Warned not to enter the woods at night because of an evil creature that lives there, young Adam does not heed the

warning. He goes into the woods with his friend Kyle; the two soon discover that things are very strange at this campground. But before they can get back to camp they are suddenly tossed into a very scary situation with a twist that will make you think about how you treat others.

5...A STRANGE REALITY
Devan is only twelve, but is already feeling the weight of an adult when his grandfather is placed in a nursing home and Devan has to face life living with a foster family. Things are very strange in Devans' world and nothing is as it seems. This one will rivet

you to the very core.

WHEN THE BABY CRIES

"We don't need a babysitter" Alexa cried. "Yes you do, I have a lot to handle with the new baby coming in one week". Alexa looked at her moms' bloated stomach. She was very excited about the baby but at twelve years old she felt she didn't need a babysitter anymore. "I can baby-sit Adam and help out around here" she replied to her mother. Six year old Adam jumped up and said "yeah yeah let Lexy do it". "It's settled" mother said in a firm voice. "The babysitter will be here in an hour". "Now go wash your hands and faces and be ready

to meet Triva”.

Alexa stared out the window as the new sitter walked up the side walk. She was about their mom’s age. Alexa thought she was very pretty, but became suspicious when she noticed she was talking into a ring on her finger, and looking back at a grey van parked near the corner. She raised her hand as if to signal to someone in the van Alexa knew something was very strange about this new sitter. She didn't like it one bit, not one bit at all.

“Hi my name is Triva”,"I'm your new babysitter”, she said, as she

picked up Adam. Adam squirmed out of her arms and said “put me down I am not a baby”. “I don't like her mommy” he exclaimed. “Adam that's not nice” mom scolded. “You must be Alexa”, the new sitter said as she shook Alexas' hand. Alexa noticed how firm her grip was and it sent chills up her spine. She knew she would have to be very wary of Triva. Just then, the door opened and her step dad walked in and said “hello you must be Triva”. “I am Jim Porter the new daddy to be”. Alexa looked at her step dad and said “you’re home early”. He gave her a hug and said I want to meet the

new babysitter”. Alexa had loved him from the beginning and for two years he raised her as his own child. “So how many dishes did you put in today Daddy” Adam asked? He was always curious about his stepfathers work. “I installed ten dishes and repaired six” he explained. Jim Porter was a satellite repair man and installation supervisor. He always said “it wasn't the best job, but it paid the bills”. “So, Triva can we expect you here at six am tomorrow” mom asked? “Well of course” Triva answered. She looked at the children and said “be ready for a big day of fun tomorrow”. “I think we will go

on a treasure hunt". Alexa thought to herself "I wonder what she is really hunting".

The next day Alexa awoke to the most beautiful singing she had ever heard. It sounded like an angel singing. When she opened her eyes she realized it was Triva. "Rise and shine" she said. "We have a big day ahead of us". Alexa waited for Triva to leave her room and then she got dressed in a pair of jeans and a crop top. She walked into the kitchen to find Adam already dressed and eating a big breakfast. "We never eat pancakes on weekdays" Alexa remarked. "Well, I thought it

would be a yummy breakfast for a yummy day" Trivia answered. Alexa sat down and took one pancake with a smirk, but by the time breakfast was over she had eaten four pancakes, two eggs and two pieces of bacon. Which was surprising because she was the smallest kid in her the sixth grade. She couldn't help herself the food was so good. Triva quickly washed the dishes and Alexa rinsed while Adam watched his favorite cartoon show.

Mom hollered "good-bye" as she left to go shopping with Aunt Kate. "Ok kids its time for our treasure hunt" Triva

announced. She walked into the living room with Alexa and Adam following closely behind her. “Here is how you play the game” she explained. “First you look for any strange objects that you don't recognize and you try to find the clue to the secret word”, “outerspace”. Alexa thought this was a very strange game and she became suspicious when Triva went into her stepfather’s office and began looking at things in there. “Alexa!, Alexa”! Adam screamed from the bedroom. Alexa went running into the bedroom “what is it Adam” she asked in a high pitched voice? “See see” he exclaimed

“look what I found”. Alexa looked at the little device in Adams hand. She new what it was from watching Detective TV a lot. It looked just like bug or a spy device. Now she new something was up and she had to find out what. “Don't tell anyone Adam” she told her little brother. Adam locked his lips and threw away the key.

Alexa listened as Triva spoke into her watch again. “I have entered the family successfully, they suspect nothing”. “Yes I will gain the children’s’ trust first, and then we will use them against the parents”. “I have found something interesting here”. “I

will bring back to lab tonight". "Must go tend to the kiddies" she hissed. Alexa hid behind the door, and when Triva walked out she went in and looked around. She noticed a green sticky substance on the floor. When she touched it her arm tingled. She wondered what it was, but she could not investigate because she heard Triva calling her. She walked out of the room as Triva walked up and suspiciously asked "what were you doing in there". "Um I was looking for you" she replied. "Come on its time for lunch" Triva explained, "then you children can take a nap". "I don't take naps anymore" Alexa

screamed. “You do now’ Triva exclaimed! Alexa thought “you want us in bed so you can do something bad”. But she had to do what she was told. They ate sandwiches for lunch and for some strange reason they both felt very sleepy afterwards.

When Alexa awoke it was already time for dinner and Triva was just leaving. “You must have been tired” mom said “you never take a nap, but Triva said you were out like a light right after lunch”. “I know” Alexa replied glancing at Triva who grinned back at her superiorly. “Well, I will see you tomorrow” she said to Alexa as she walked out the

door. Alexa looked out the window to see her get into her car and drive off. When Alexa turned around Adam was behind her and he asked “can we tell mommy our secret”? “No Adam” she retorted, be quite. “Ok” he said and he went into his room to play with his toys. “Hey Alexa” her stepfather called. She went into his office and he asked “were you in my office today”? “Um Triva was in here earlier” Alexa replied innocently. “Oh she was” he said coyly. “Well I think I will start locking the door when I leave” he added.

That night Alexa fell asleep to her stepfathers’ voice

as he read her a bed time story. Around midnight she awoke to use the bathroom. When she was in the hallway she saw a flash of light downstairs. She slowly walked down the dark stairs and into the living room where the only light coming in was from a nearby street lamp. She saw another flash and then movement from her stepfathers' office. She tiptoed to the door. There she saw Triva dressed in black, going through her stepfathers' desk. Triva turned to look at her and her eyes were glowing. Alexa screamed as Triva ran passed her knocking her down and headed out the door. Alexa heard a car screech and pull

away as her stepfather ran down the stairs. “Are you ok honey” he asked? “What happened”? “It was Triva”! Alexa snapped. “She was looking in your office”. “She ran outside and got in a car and sped off”. Jim jumped to his feet and quickly ran out the door. Looking down the street he saw nothing. Alexa noticed the green sticky substance on her shirt and ran upstairs. as fast as she could. She passed her mother in the hallway. “Are you ok” her mother asked? Alexa said “yes” as she ran to her room. She stripped off her night shirt and put on a white T shirt. Just then her mom walked in and said

“would you like to explain to me what happened tonight”? “I told dad” Alexa fired back. “It was Triva”. “Alexa I know you don't like Triva but making up stories to hurt her is wrong”. “I will not here of it, now go to bed” she snapped. “Jill, what did Alexa say” Jim asked?” “She said it was Triva, and I sent her to bed”. “To think Triva would do such a thing is ridiculous”.

The next morning was Saturday and the family went to the zoo. Alexa and Adam loved the zoo and they were having a good time. Their stepfather always spent a lot of time with them. He was a good

dad. Adam stood at the lion cage and roared at the lion. He fell backwards when the lion boomed a roar back at him. He cried “I don't like lions anymore” as his step dad held him tight. Alexa ran ahead to see the monkeys. She loved to watch the monkeys. She was looking at the old monkey in the corner when she felt a hand around her mouth and she felt herself being dragged across the sidewalk. Soon she was behind a building looking into very familiar eyes. “So you had to be nosy” Triva snarled. “You don't know what this is about and you better stay out of my way little girl”! “I know you’re not normal” Alexa

exclaimed. Your eyes glow and your have green stuff. Are you an alien she asked? as she was shaking.uncontrolably. “Maybe” Triva said looking deep into Alexas' eyes “and maybe I am going to eat your little brother if you say one word of this to your mother or stepfather”. “Do you understand me” she asked in a very mean voice? Alexa cried “yes please let me go”! She closed her eyes to avoid Trivas stare. When she opened them she was gone. Alexa heard her mothers’ voice calling her. Alexa dried her eyes and yelled “I'm over here mom”.

That night Alexa sat in her

room thinking, she thought to herself “that's it she is an alien, but what does she want with us”. “Why us”? Her stepfather walked into the room, sat on the bed next to her and said “you have been very quite today” “What’s wrong” he asked gently? “Nothing” she whispered back. “Alexa, honey something is wrong” he said. “Please tell me”.Hesitantly, Alexa murmured “I think Triva is an alien”. “Why do you say that” he asked? “I saw her the other night and her eyes glowed and she has this green stuff on her”. “Adam found this” she said pulling the spy device out of her pocket. Her stepfathers’ eyes got big. “Did

you tell your mother” he asked her in a deep voice? It was the first time she had ever heard him use that voice. “No” she replied. “Don't tell her” he scowled. “You go to sleep and I will take care of this”. Alexa closed her eyes and tried to sleep but something about the way her stepfather had spoken to her scared her. She heard the footsteps going down the stairs and she peeked out the door. It was her stepfather and he was fully dressed. She pulled on her slippers and crept down the stairs. He was grabbing his jacket as she snuck out the door and hid in the back of his pick up truck. The tarp that he always covered the back with

made an excellent hiding spot. They drove for a while and then stopped. He got out of the truck and reached under the tarp and grabbed his tool box. When she heard him walk away she peeked her head up and looked around carefully. They were parked on a dirt road and she could see him working on a satellite. Soon she heard his voice. He was talking to someone. She ran to the tree line and followed it until she was close enough to hear what he was saying. He was speaking in a language she had never heard. before. When he stopped talking he stayed there for few minutes.Alexa thought she saw him crying.

She ran back to the truck and climbed back under the tarp. Now she didn't know who to trust.

The next morning was Sunday and the family normally went to church, but mom wasn't feeling well so Jim put a movie in the DVD player for the kids to watch. He went upstairs and sat beside Jill's' side. Alexa heard her mother scream and she ran up the stairs. When she walked in she saw he mom lying on the bed in agony. "Your moms in labor" Jim screamed "Go downstairs and get some towels now"! Alexa got the towels and ran back upstairs.

“I'll call 911” she yelled. "NO Alexa” he bellowed. I will take care of this. Alexa was very scared and she began to cry. “It's ok honey” he said softly “I’m sorry for yelling”. Go downstairs and watch Adam. Alexa went downstairs, but after her mother screamed a few more times she snuck back up stairs and peeked around the corner. She couldn't believe her eyes she saw her stepfather holding the baby. The baby was a little green creature and Jims face was different. Jims’ face was lying on the ground and this creature had a green face with scales on the side of his jaw. He had deep sunken in red eyes and little pointy teeth.

He pulled the baby close to his face and spit the same green sticky stuff she had found before into the baby's' mouth. Alexa gasped for air and then she passed out and hit the floor with a thud

Alexa opened her eyes to the bright sun shining in her room. She climbed out of bed and went to her mothers' room. Her mother was sleeping, but opened her eyes as Alexa sat down on the bed. "Mom" Alexa exclaimed "Jim is an alien". "It's ok Alexa", her mother interrupted "I know what Jim is, but I don't think you know". "When I met Jim two years ago we fell in love

right away". "Before we were married he told me that he was from another planet and that his world was dying and he was the last of his kind". "I decided to help him continue his race by having a baby with him". "Jim is a gentle and loving creature and I do not care what he is or where he is from". "I love him do you understand that"?

"Yes" Alexa replied. "Now would you like to hold your new brother" her mother asked? Alexa shook her head. "It's ok Lexie" her mother replied. . Alexa looked at the beautiful baby boy with bright blue eyes and blond hair. "I

saw him before” she exclaimed “he didn’t look like that”. “I know” her mother answered. “He has to look like us to be accepted in our society”. “People are afraid of what they don't know and they will hurt the baby and your dad if they find out”. “That’s what Triva was doing here” Alexa nodded and said. “Mom I got to do something”. “I'll be back in a little bit”. “I have to go downstairs”.

When Alexa came back her stepfather and her brother were holding the baby while her mother slept. Alexa walked in and gave Jim a hug. “Are you ok with this” he asked

softly? “Yes” she said “I love you, we all love you and the new baby too”. Alexa new she had made the right choice to accept Jim and her new brother. It didn't matter if they were different. She loved them .That’s what mattered.

Alexa and her stepfather sat on the couch watching TV. Suddenly the front door flew open and Triva came storming in with a whole group of agents. “He is the alien” she said pointing to Jim. “He has the strange genetically mutated substance in his office”. A man walked into the office and walked out with a jar of the green sticky substance. Jim

stared at the substance that he had to eat to be able to live on earth. He knew he was in trouble now. The chemist tested the substance right there on the spot in the van while holding Jim in handcuffs. The chemist went straight to Triva with the results, and said, “what do you mean disrupting this mans whole life because you find a sticky substance” “This is simply children’s’ play putty” he yelled. “But Jim sends messages through the satellite dishes” she said. “I don't even work for the satellite company anymore”. “I am a newspaper reporter now and boy will this make a story”. He sadly thought to

himself that he had no need to send messages into space anymore everyone on his planet was now dead. “I know that was different green stuff”! Trivia yelled as they escorted her out of the house. She looked back at Alexa, and Alexa grinned superiorly. Jim looked at Alexa, and winked. “Thanks kid” he whispered.

THE GHOST OF JENNY

Ryan felt a cold hand on his face and he screamed “Mom, Mom she’s back again”! For almost three months Ryan had been telling this to everyone he knew. There was a ghost in his house, but no one believed him. Ryan was only five and everyone knows a five year old has an active imagination. Ryan’s mom Claudia came running into the room. “Oh Ryan please stop this nonsense and go to bed” she said exhaustedly. “But she's really here” Ryan argued. “Go to bed now”! his mother retorted.

Ryan closed his eyes and eventually drifted off to sleep. He awoke to a girls' voice, calling "Ryan, Ryan wake up". Ryan opened his eyes and stared at the girl. For the first time he could see more than just her shadow. She looked almost real. "Go away"! Ryan demanded. Mom says "You are not real"! "Well mom isn't what she seems to be either" the little girl replied. "Ryan listen to me". "I died in this house four years ago". "I am your sister Jenny". Ryan covered his face with his blanket. "You are lying"! he cried. "No Ryan", she said softly. "Someone killed me and I think they might try to

kill you too”. “No” he yelled. “Go away”! “Please Ryan, listen to me” “I was six when I was killed and you will be six in three days”. “Who killed you”? Ryan asked shyly. “I don't know” Jenny answered. : “But I know it was a woman”. “I felt a woman’s dress and smelled perfume as she shook me from behind”. “Be quite Mom’s coming” Jenny said in a trembling voice. Then she disappeared. Ryan's door opened and his mother walked in. “Ryan who were you talking to” mom asked? “Jenny” Ryan said. Claudia’s face turned pure white and she ran out of the room. Ryan could hear her in the hallway

crying to his father. “He is talking to the dead now”. “I am afraid he has turned evil” she said... Ryan knew Jenny was telling the truth. Now he was scared but he was only five. What could he do? He needed Jenny's help desperately.

Ryan slowly fell asleep again. When he awoke the sun was shining brightly. His nanny was getting his play clothes ready. “Hi Nanny Maggie” he said, jumping out of bed and giving her a hug. He loved his nanny. She had cared for him since his birth. “Hi honey” she said. “Are you ready to go out on this beautiful day and play” she

asked? “Yes, and I can’t wait”! he said. She dressed him and made his breakfast. He ate quickly because. Ryan had some questions he wanted to ask Maggie.

Ryan walked slowly as they took their morning walk. He always walked slowly passed the family graves. The house they lived in had been in the family for over a hundred years and resembled a big old mansion. There were horses and he had his own big playground with swings, a slide and a seesaw. “Nanny Maggie” he said slowly “Did I have a sister named Jenny? Maggie stopped dead in her

tracks. She hesitated for a few seconds and answered “Yes, but she died when you were a baby and your mother and father do not speak of her, ever”. “I am going to ask Mommy about it” Ryan said. “Ryan Mills you will do no such thing”! Maggie exclaimed. “Some things are better left in the past”. Ryan turned back toward the house. “Let's go back” he said. As they passed the family graves Ryan noticed Jenny standing by one of the small headstones. Ryan ran to her. “Ryan you come back here” Maggie yelled. When Ryan got to where Jenny was standing, she disappeared. But he noticed

what she wanted him to see .There in front of him was a small headstone that read. “JENNY MILLS OUR BELOVED DAUGHTER”. Ryan turned and ran back to Nanny Maggie.

When it was time to go to bed, Ryan went to his father and said “Daddy tuck me in please”. Ryan's father picked him up and carried him piggy-back up to his room and tossed him on the bed. “Daddy” Ryan asked”? “How did Jenny die”? “How do you know about Jenny” his father asked? “Maggie told me” he said. “Well”, his father said “I knew you would find out

eventually”. “Your mother didn't want you to know”. “But I’ll tell you”. “Jenny went for a walk by the lake with your mother”. “Your mother lost sight of her”. “When we found her she had drowned in the lake”. “She was with Mommy” Ryan asked? “Yes she was with your mother” his father replied. Suddenly the door flew open and Mommy stood there with a look of anger on her face. “I will not allow this subject discussed in my house again”! She turned, and slammed the door shut. Ryan began to cry. “It's ok” his father said. “It just hurts her to remember Jenny”. “Now go to sleep” he said as he kissed

Ryan on the forehead.

That night, Ryan called out to Jenny but she didn't come to him. He began to feel very alone and very scared. He would be six in five days and remembered Jenny's warning. Ryan fell asleep after two in the morning. When Ryan woke up he looked out the window. It was a rainy day. He would be stuck inside all day. He hated staying indoors. He waited for Nanny Maggie to get him dressed. Maggie didn't come, and Ryan wondered why. He dressed himself and went downstairs and found his mother sitting at the kitchen table. "Maggie has left us and

we will be getting a new nanny in a few days", his Mom explained."But I love Maggie" he cried. "I don't care" his mother said coldly. "Maggie had no right talking to you about Jenny". "I had her leave first thing this morning" "She will be back to get her things in a few days". "You may say good-bye then". Ryan felt sad knowing he would not see his beloved Maggie anymore.

Ryan stayed in his room most of day to avoid his mother. He was very angry at her. Ryan began to feel uncomfortable at the way his Mom looked at him. As though he did something wrong, and

she wanted him gone too. When his Dad came home Ryan stayed with him for the rest of the afternoon. After dinner, his father said, “Tomorrow is your birthday, Ryan. “I wonder what you will get for your birthday”. He winked at Ryan’s mother, who turned and smiled back at him. “I don’t know”. Ryan thought as he felt the panic rise inside him.

That night Ryan's mother put him to bed. She gave him a kiss on the forehead and said sweetly “No matter what I love you son”. “I love you too Mommy Ryan said in a whisper. As soon as Mommy

left the room, Jenny appeared. “Ryan we have got to do something secretly” she said. “Where have you been”? he asked.. “I tried to call you”. “I know” Jenny said. “I couldn't come. I am having a hard-time trying not to cross to the other side”. “You mean heaven” Ryan asked? “Yes” she replied. Ryan and Jenny waited for their parents to go to bed. Then Ryan snuck out of his bed. He was going to hide in the cemetery. No one would find him there. Ryan walked out of his room and started down the hall way. He was about to make his way down the stairs, when he heard a door open downstairs. He

backed up slowly and ran into something. He felt a hand cover his mouth tightly. “Don't say anything” Mommy's voice whispered harshly. Ryan bit her hand and kicked her. She released him. He ran down the hallway and into the first room he came to. He locked the door behind him. It was Nanny Maggie’s room. Ryan turned the light on. He heard the door knob rattle, scared, he hid under the bed. As he lay under the bed, he notice a book stuffed under the mattress. He opened it he saw a picture of his grandfather. He had only seen one other picture of his grandfather. His father carried it in his wallet. Ryan couldn't

read the book but, Jenny could. She read the article and then she gasped. “What” Ryan asked? “It's not”..Jenny began to say. but couldn’t finish. The door flew open and Ryan was pulled out from under the bed by his feet. Nanny Maggie picked him up. “Let’s go” she said “I am getting you out of here”! Ryan leaped into her arms She carried him down the hallway. Ryan saw his mother lying on the floor bleeding from her head. “Mommy”! he cried. “She was going to kill you” Maggie said. “I had to stop her”. Ryan tried to squirm out of Maggie’s arms but she held him tight.

The night air was cold as Maggie dragged Ryan along the trail to the lake. “Why are we going this way”, he asked? “Ryan be careful, Maggie is my murderer”! Jenny said as she appeared from the darkness of the night. “Grandpa was drinking and driving and hit and killed her brother 20 years ago”. “Maggie’s’ brother was six years old when he was killed”. “Please don't hurt me” Ryan pleaded. “I am sorry for what happened to your brother”. Maggie looked at him “How do you know about that” she asked? “Jenny told me” he answered. “Shut up”! Maggie yelled slapping him in his face.

She took out a rope she had carried with her, wrapped it around Ryan's" neck and began to choke the little boy. Ryan could feel his face turning blue. He could see Jenny watching helplessly. Suddenly a little boy appeared from the mist of the night. It was Maggie's" dead brother. "Maggie" he begged, "Let him go"! "He didn't hurt me". "He's' grandfather killed me not him". "Its time to let the revenge go". "Please Maggie let him go". Maggie fell to the ground. Ryan gasped for air. "Ryan"! His mother shrieked as she ran to his side. "Are you ok honey" she asked? as tears streamed down her face. "I'm

ok Mommy” he gasped. Dad arrived soon after, checked Ryan and Mom. Then he felt Maggie’s wrist for a pulse. “She's dead” he said. “She must have had a heart attack. I called the police. Ryan looked up just in time to see a little girl and a little boy hugging. He knew Maggie was with her brother now. I have to go now Jenny whispered in his ear. I love you, Ryan.

When the police arrived it didn't take long to find the news articles in Maggie's room. They investigated and discovered the truth. They explained to Ryan's parents what happened to Jenny and

why. Mom held Ryan tightly and lovingly. She had a different look in her eyes now. It was a look of love. Ryan felt safe in his mother's arms. He thought to himself “Jenny was finally at peace and so were Maggie and her brother”. “It must have been very hard for Maggie to lose her brother”. “No wonder she couldn't forgive his grandfather”. “But I forgive her” he thought to himself. He was a pretty bright six year old.

THE RING

It was a cold day in East Chicago and Jenna Banks walked quickly through the store parking lot looking for her car. Suddenly, a boy in his teens grabbed Jenna's hand and pulled her wedding ring off her finger. Jenna was stunned. By the time she realized what happened the boy was gone and so was her very expensive ring. Jenna went back into the store and reported the incident to the police.

Jenna walked into her apartment and sank down into her oversized love seat. “Why me”? she asked herself. She

had been so lonely lately and that ring was the only thing to keep her company. She went to the refrigerator and took out the salmon she had been marinating for dinner. “Another dinner alone”, she thought. She was used to it by now.

Across town the seventeen year old Jake pulled the ring out of hip pocket. He looked down at his three year old sister Megan, and said “You wait here”. He left the child in front the pawn shop while he went in. He hocked the ring for $700.00. “It's just enough to buy food and pay the rent”, Jake thought to himself. He

felt bad for stealing the ring, but his father had abandoned him and Megan and things were tough. His father couldn’t handle the responsibilities left to him when his wife died some six months ago. He had been left alone to take care of Megan. He walked out of the pawn shop and took Megan grocery shopping. On the way home they stopped to see the landlord and pay the rent. The landlord, Mr. Hicks asked “Is your dad working late again”? “Yes” Jake responded. Then he walked out quickly. He knew that if anyone knew that he was raising Megan they would call Child Protective Services and he couldn't let that happen.

That night they ate hamburgers and fries. Megan went to bed at eight o'clock and Jake did his homework. He finally laid his head on his pillow at midnight. Something lumpy was digging into his head. He sat up and looked at the pillow. Jake jumped out of bed startled. Lying on his pillow was the ring "How could it have gotten there"? he thought to himself. Jake looked around the room. He jumped back as he caught the gaze of a strange man looking back at him from the mirror. Jake looked all around the room, but no one was there. He looked at the mirror again and briefly saw the image but it

faded quickly. The image was of a man wearing a military hat and uniform. Jake ran to Megan's room and climbed in bed with her. He slept there the whole night. He awoke just in time to get Megan on the bus for school. Jake went back into his room and looked on his pillow. The ring was still there. Jake was afraid to touch the ring and he went to school.

When Jake got home from school he went into his room and picked the ring up and put it in a paper bag. He took it to the river on the way to Megan's bus stop and threw it in. He picked Megan up as usual and they went straight

home. Megan ran to the TV. She always watched TV for an hour after school. Jake started to make dinner when Megan came running into the kitchen. “The man in the mirror said to tell you to give this back” she said handing him the ring. Jake took the ring and threw it on the floor. He grabbed Megan and ran out of the house. He didn't know where he was going, but he couldn't stay there.

Jenna worked late at the office that night. She really didn't have any extra work but she didn't want to go home alone. She passed Ann's cubicle and admired the

pictures of Ann's kids. She and Tom had always wanted kids .Jenna couldn't bare to think about it. She grabbed her purse and left the office quickly. On the way home she stopped at a diner. She sat in a corner booth. Jenna was eating her food when she noticed a teenage boy and a little girl come in and sit down a couple tables away from her.

The waitress asked Jake and Megan what they wanted to order. They both ordered small fries and small drinks. “Megan you stay here” Jake said “I have to go to the bathroom”. Megan said “Ok” and Jake went to the men’s

room. He passed Jenna and instantly recognized her. Jenna thought he seemed familiar, but couldn't place him. Jenna had a feeling she did know him. When Jake was in the men's room, the ring fell out of his pocket. He was stunned. He heard a voice whisper in his ear. "Give it back to her". "Ok" he pleaded "I will give it back". Jake slowly walked to Jennas'table and placed the ring down. "This belongs to you" he said. "I am sorry I took it but I needed the money". "For drugs" Jenna questioned? "No" he answered hesitantly "To take care of my little sister". Just then Megan walked up. "Hi" she said to

Jenna. “Well hello” Jenna replied. Jenna liked Megan right away.

Jake explained how they had been abandoned by their dad. Jenna took them to her house that night and called Social Services. The next day she explained to Jake and Megan how lonely she had been since her husband had been killed overseas. She told the children that Social Services had found a good home for them Jenna said she hoped they needed her as much as she needed them. Megan asked “We get to stay here”? “Only if you want to” Jenna said, smiling at Jake. Jake

smiled and said “Thank you”. Jake looked at the picture on the wall behind Jenna. “Who is that he asked”? “That was my husband” Jenna replied .You would have liked him if you met him” she added. “I already have,” Jake thought to himself.

THE COLD DARK WOODS

“Never go in there”. “Never at night, when the birds scream, and the wolves howl”. “There is a creature in there and it is said to be the most evil creature unleashed upon man”.The boys all chuckled. “You can laugh if you want”, the camp owner Mr. Wiggen said. “Just beware do not go in there when it's dark”. “It comes out to hunt for its’ prey at night”.

The night is clear and the stars are bright as young Adam and Kyle headed into the woods in search of the

creature. They walked a long way when they come across several box traps. “Mr. Wiggen must have set these” Kyle said to Adam. Adam shook his head in agreement. They continued on for another hour or so when they spotted a big black object moving in front of them. They both hid behind two big trees. The big black bear walked passed them without even a notice. He must have had other things on his mind. “Wow that was close” Adam said in relief.

The boys walked deeper and deeper into the dark woods. Neither of them seemed concerned with the

fact that their flashlights were starting to dim. Suddenly, something flew at them from the tree. “It's him”! Adam yelled as he turned to run from the stuffed dummy. Kyle and Adam both ran so fast their hearts were pounding. Kyle felt the ground give way under his feet and he yelled for help. Adam stopped running and looked into the old well. He could see Kyle on the bottom. “Kyle are you ok” he asked? “I think my leg is broken”, Kyle answered with a quivering voice. “I will go get help” Adam said. He turned and looked around and realized he was lost. He started walking and hoped he could find help.

He had walked a long way when Adam stopped dead in his tracks. In front of him Adam saw a creature unlike anything he had seen before. Its face was all distorted. Adam watched as the creature played with a dog. He isn't a creature Adam thought “just a boy like me”. Adam took a deep breath and drew up all the courage he could muster. He walked up to the creature and said “I need help” My friend has fallen in a well. The creature jumped up and startled Adam. “Ok” he said “hang on I'll get a rope”. On the way back to the well Adam learned that the boys name was Oly and his father was the

camp owner Mr. Wiggen. His father was ashamed of him and told those awful stories to keep the kids away from him. His father had spent his whole life beating him and treating him like a slave. Adam thought “poor Oly”.

“Kyle are you ok” Adam yelled? “I am alright” Kyle answered. “Ok then Oly and I will get you out of there”. “Who's Oly” Kyle asked? “You'll see” Adam answered. Oly lowered the rope into the hole and pulled Kyle out. At first Kyle was startled, but then Adam explained about Oly.

The next night all the boys

sat around the campfire as Oly told his first campfire story. “Where is your dad”? Adam asked Oly. “Oh he’s hanging around. Oly replied.

Mr. Wiggens could feel the bugs crawling on his face as he laid there in the well, but he could do nothing with his hands tied behind his back. All he could do was wonder if Oly was coming back for him. What would you do?

THE COLD DARK WOODS

A STRANGE REALITY

Devan looked around the nursing home and immediately didn't like it. "There is something spooky about this place" he told his grandfather. "It's like these people are already dead". "Lots of nursing homes feel that way".... "I guess I have to take what I can get". "I feel bad for you, having to stay with a foster family", his grandfather said.

Devan could remember losing his mother and father when he was just a young boy. His loving grandfather raised Devan for many years. Now grandfather was too old to care

for a twelve year old boy. Devan loved his granddad and didn't want to leave him in a nursing home. His foster mother was pulling rudely at his arm. “Come along Devan, we have to go now”. “You can visit your grandpa in a few days”.

Devan hated the foster home. It was more like a work camp. The kids would work all day picking up trash. No one went to school and they all treated Devan meanly. Devan waited day after day to see his grandpa. When four days passed, he decided to sneak out to see him. He ran off when he was taking out the

garbage.

When Devan saw his Grandpa he knew something was wrong. His grandpa looked very pale. He talked like he had given up and was ready to die. Devan walked down the hallway to find a bathroom, but instead he found a different kind of room. It was the strangest room he ever saw. There was a glowing light coming from the ceiling. Not like a normal light, it seemed to melt right into the ceiling. Devan was staring at it when he heard footsteps. He hid behind a nearby curtain. Two men walked in and he listened as they spoke. “Mr. James is

almost ready” they said. “He just has to settle some issues with his grandson”. “Oh no”! Devan thought; Mr. James was Devans’ grandpa.

Devan grabbed his grandfathers’ hand. “We have to get out of here right now”, he said. His grandpa didn't object. He simply followed Devan out the back door. They hurried into the darkness. After walking for a while, Grandpa said “it's time to talk Devan”. “It's time for you to go home” “You have stayed with me long enough”. “I am ok now”. “What do you mean grandpa” Devan asked? Grandpa looked into Devans’ eyes and

suddenly Devan knew. He could see that horrible day of the crash. He was only two at the time. Grandpa had crashed the car. It wasn't mom and dad that died, it was grandpa. Devan could hear his mom calling “Devan, Devan”. “I don't want to go” Devan said “I can't leave grandpa all alone”. “I am not alone”, said grandpa pointing toward the light in the sky. They could see all his friends standing there waiting to welcome him home.

Devan could feel himself being drawn to his mothers voice. Devan opened his eyes after ten years of being in a coma. “Oh Devan”! his mother

cried. Devan simply said “I'm hungry”.

POEMS FOR THE KIDS BY MICHELLE CARPENTER

HERE ARE SOME POEMS FOR THE KIDS

IZZY KITTY

Izzy Kitty has a story to tell.
It starts when he meets a witch named Izzabelle
Izzy is just a regular cat
Until he is given magic power imagine that

Izzy is chosen to save the world
Into a mess he is hurled
Raising against time with his boys by his side
Izzy has to face an evil warlock he can’t hide

Izzy and the boys go from one journey to the next
Try to break an evil hex
They learn to trust each other everyday
They also learn they do better when they pray.

TO READ MORE ABOUT IZZY AND HIS FREINDS PICK UP MY NEXT BOOK

IZZY KITTY AND THE MAGIC WITHIN

HERE ARE SOME POEMS FOR THE KIDS

JOSHUA HAYS

It was first camping trip and
she was excited
She wasn't sure mom and dad
would let her go but they had
finally decided
She was only eight and would
be going with her friend
Her friend's family had been to
River Woods and wanted to go
again

The first night they sat around
the campfire and listened to a
story
About an old cowboy and his

horse Glory
And how he had been the last cowboy left around here before he died
And how he saved a family from the fire that took his life.

That night Sara went to sleep quickly she had a long day
With setting up camp, the story and play
Sometime during the night she was awaken by something at her feet
It was a furry bunny and Sara thought it was neat

She jumped up and chased the bunny out into the woods
She didn’t realize this was not

good
She ran until she fell down a hill and hit her head
She passed out as soon as she saw red

When she awoke she was in a cave with a strange looking man
She sat straight up and stared at him
I want my mommy she began to cry
It’s ok he said their looking for you someone will wonder by

He fed her and kept her safe for three long days
She wasn’t scared of him anymore and she knew him as

Joshua Hays
She was teaching him a game
When she heard them call her
name

She ran right into her daddy's
arms and he held her tight
She took him to the cave when
the man had kept her safe
those three nights
But he wasn't there and they
could see no sign of him
All they found was the remains
of where a fire had been

The little girl tried to convince
them but to no evail
She knew she would never
forget her cowboy pale
As they carried her away she

heard Joshua say
Giddy up Glory let’s be on our way

HERE ARE SOME POEMS FOR THE KIDS

COMPANY

Waiting for them to come
So much to get done
Bring the toys around to the front
Just like I know the boys will want

I am so excited I haven't seen them in so long
I bet their tall now and strong
I can wait to sit and play
Like we use to all day

I am sure they can't wait to se me

I hope they don’t think I look
to funny
I’m a little older now
But I think they will
understand somehow

Look I see there car
Oh yes their here there they are
First comes Jordan and Derrick
too
They hug me like they always
do

I lick their face and wag my
tail
I know that I will always be
their pale
We play all day and I get a
bone
Then it’s time for them to go

POEMS

home

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